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none at all have done much to restrict travel and to isolate the inhabitants. He gives many facts to show that much which has been said about the mountain people is not true, but he frankly admits that the geographical environment has tended to keep them back ward. His book is mainly devoted to a description of the people, their social condition, industries, and educational opportunities, their politics and religion; and he evidently desires to tell the unadorned truth about things just as he has seen them all his life. He shows many photographs of fine-looking mountain boys and girls and energetic young men and says the tendency of the inhabitants is progressive. On the whole, the book is meant to be a vindication of the mountaineers and an assurance of their favourable attitude towards improvement.

**A Vision of India.** By **Sydney Low.** xiv and 365 pp., 49 Illustrations from Photographs, and Map. E. P. Dutton & Co., New York, 1907. (Price, \$3.50.)

The author accompanied the Prince and Princess of Wales through India, in 1905-6, as the correspondent of a London newspaper. He deviated at times from the route of the Royal travellers, it being his purpose to write a book giving a general idea of the conditions of life and society in India. It was not to be expected that his book would add anything to our geographical information or that, in a few months, he might so thoroughly study a vast domain as to be able to give a scientific account of it. What he has accomplished is to give, with the art of a talented and experienced writer, a series of impressions of many phases of India, "its splendor and its contradictions, its wealth and poverty and its medley of classes, creeds and peoples." The book is very readable, has abundance of entertainment and information, and is an excellent work of its kind.

Naturally the completeness of statement needed to convey just the right idea is sometimes lacking. The author writes, for example: "We [the Indian Government] have abolished Suttee," and adds that this self-immolation by widows still occurs occasionally. A different impression of the matter is given by Swami Abhedananda in his "India and Her People," *suum cuique*:

It has often been said that the Christian government has suppressed Suttee; but the truth is that the initiative in this direction was taken by that noble Hindu Rājāh Rām Mohan Roy, who was, however, obliged to secure the aid of the British Government in enforcing his ideas, because India was a subject nation. The educated classes among the Hindus had strongly protested against the priests who supported this inhuman custom (which prevailed only in certain parts of India), and efforts had been made to suppress the evil by force; but, as it could not be done without official help, appeal was made to the Viceroy, Lord Bentinck, and a law against Suttee was passed. Thus the evil was practically suppressed by the Hindus themselves, aided by the British government.

**Die Parlamentarische Studienreise nach West- und Ostafrika. Reisebriefe aus Togo, Kamerun und Deutsche-Ostafrika.** Von **Dr. Otto Arendt.** 174 pp. C. A. Schwetschke und Sohn, Berlin, 1906. (Price, M. 3.)

This is a welcome addition to the books giving an account of the material and educational progress in various parts of Africa. The German Reichstag sent a Committee of Inquiry to Togo and Kamerun in 1905 and another to German East Africa in 1906. Dr. Arendt was the only member of the Reichstag who was on both committees, and in this volume he tells where they travelled and what they saw. It is evident that the committees had a good time and were very much impressed and often surprised by the evidences of transformation that were continually observed.

The author says that the best of order is preserved in Togo, which, in its

rapid advancement, is really setting a pace for all the other colonies. The roads are well kept, the streets of Lome (the capital) are broad and no litter is permitted to accumulate on them, the natives are peaceful and intelligent and in their cleanliness and attire he thinks them far superior to the "free citizens" of Liberia.

In Kamerun the visitors saw little evidence of sickness among the whites, and were convinced that the peril of fever had been considerably exaggerated and also much reduced by intelligent hygienic methods. Buea, the capital of the colony, is high on the slope of Mt. Kamerun and is a healthful and a beautiful place. To reach it from the port of Victoria the visitors travelled for miles on the narrow gauge railroad that has been built by Mr. Esser through his cacao plantation, which is one of the largest planting enterprises in the tropics.

German East Africa only enhanced the excellent impression that the west coast colonies had made. In fact, Dr. Arendt believes that tropical east Africa offers more advantages for a high stage of development than the west coast. "I returned from German East Africa," he writes, "with the firm conviction that we possess there a German East Indies, and that if we do not make much of it the blame will rest not on the colony but on ourselves."

The present rate of progress in the European colonies of tropical Africa is no less remarkable than the wonderful era of discovery that made most of Africa known to us in a single generation. Such books as this are useful as marking the milestones along the way.

**Le Siam et les Siamois. Par le Commandant Lunet de Lajonquière.** Librairie Armand Colin, Paris, 1906. (Price, 3.50 fr.)

Siam is one of the oriental countries which are absorbing much of the science of the West. The author went there in charge of an archeological mission to the valleys of the Menam and the Mekong rivers. He improved the opportunity to study the Siamese and their country, and especially to note the extent to which Western influences are beginning to modify their lives and work. He gives a general view of the kingdom, its government, commerce, industries and resources, pictures the Siamese as they are at home, describes the activities of the foreigners among them, and shows the change that is coming over land and people—not rapidly, as in Japan, but gently, naturally, and surely towards closer affinity, in many respects, with Western development. He visited nearly all the provinces of the kingdom, and he takes his readers on a land route between Rangoon and Bangkok, now almost unknown, but which seems destined to have a large commercial future. The book is a valuable addition to the works on Asiatic countries which the firm of Armand Colin has published.

**Kleine Sammlung wissenschaftlicher Wetterregeln. Von Dr. W. A. Michelson.** v and 17 pp. Friedrich Vieweg und Sohn, Brunswick, 1906.

The author is Professor of Physics and Meteorology in the Agricultural High School of Moscow. His booklet, published in Russian in 1900, met with such favour that it has been translated into German. The little work is meant especially for farmers and others whose business is most affected by weather conditions. It presents the weather signs or indications that are approved by meteorologists in the form of 74 rules, simply expressed, the author believing that in this form the contents will be more helpful to the general public than if he should attempt a systematic development of a complex subject.